AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A microscopic observing apparatus comprising:

a probe microscope;

an auxiliary microscope;

a specimen stage on which is placed a subject of observation that is to be observed using the probe microscope and the auxiliary microscope, and that allows an absolute position of the subject of observation to be adjusted;

a laser light irradiation device that irradiates laser light that is coaxial with the optical axis of the probe microscope onto the subject of observation; and

a microscope holding member that holds both of the probe microscope and the auxiliary microscope on the specimen stage,

wherein the microscope holding member includes:

an arm that extends horizontally towards an area above ~~of~~ the specimen stage~~, and holds the probe microscope~~; and

a rotatable member that is rotatably attached to a distal end of the arm so as to be rotatable around a horizontal axis~~, and holds the auxiliary microscope~~; and

wherein the probe microscope is directly held by the arm, while the auxiliary microscope is held by the rotatable member so as to be rotatable therewith around the horizontal axis.

12. (Previously Presented) The microscopic observing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the auxiliary microscope is a video microscope including a CCD camera with a macro lens.

Claims 13-15 (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) The microscopic observing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein

the microscope holding member comprises:

a Z stage that stands upright on the specimen stage; and

a θ stage that is mounted on a top end of the Z stage.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The microscopic observing apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein

the probe microscope is held such that a distal end thereof appears at a substantially central position in a visual field of the auxiliary microscope.